

# RAISING OUR YOUTH AS LEADERS



# History

The ROYAL Project was founded by Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons and has been providing services to youth in King County since 1998.

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Housed within the King County Department of Public Defense, ROYAL is collaborative model that has formal and informal partnerships with community based agencies.



# Mission

ROYAL is an evaluated and “Promising Practice” model that holds a 88.7% success rate at transitioning youth out of the criminal justice system.

These young people (our future leaders) accomplish their personal, professional, and educational goals toward success and self-sufficiency. They become socially conscious and progress to become strong contributing members of society.

*Developing Minds~Changing Lives*

# Why ROYAL Exists



Why are creative alternatives necessary  
for youth involved in the JJS?

Annie E. Casey Foundation

**“YOUTH INCARCERATION DOES NOT REHABILITATE”**

- No Place For Kids Report/Case, 2011

**“In 1991, the Sentencing Project reported that the number of people behind bars in the U.S. was unprecedented in world history, and that ¼ of young African American men were now under the control of the criminal justice system.”**

**The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander**



# Who?

**We serve youth (with an emphasis on youth of color) who are juvenile justice involved.**



**We serve males and females, ages 14-18.**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

- Youth of Color – 14-18
- Youth in King County
- Juvenile Justice involved (or are on the cusp)
- Youth typically come from single parent homes
- Poverty (HUD)
- 20% Bilingual
- 73% Not in school or failing
- 75% of our population is male and 25% female
- 60% of youth say they will end up dead 5 years from now
- 65-70% are gang involved or affiliated

# Our Impact



Achievements include:

- 75% of youth participants do NOT reoffend (since 1999). This stat improved to 88.7% in 2012.
- 72% avoid the adult criminal justice system.
- 68% reported improvement in school attendance.
- 80% reported a significant improvement in emotional health.
- 79% reported receiving appropriate tools necessary to become strong productive members of society.
- 92% reported the program achieves the goal of teaching participants “how” to think for themselves instead of telling them “what” to think.



# Our Impact



## Achievements (cont'd)

- It is proven that ROYAL works with youth who are “high risk” – youth who are most challenging.
- It costs King County taxpayers over \$4,048 per month/ \$50k a year to support 1 youth involved in JJS. While it costs \$446.00 a month/ \$15.53 a day for 1 youth to be involved in ROYAL or other mentorship programs.





# Case Law

We have created Case Law

- State v. K.E., 80 Wash.App. 806, 820 n. 35, 911 P.2d 1344, review denied, 129 Wash.2d 1032, 922 P.2d 97 (1996).
- State v. J.A., 105 Wn. App. 879; 20 P.3d 487; 2001 Wash. App. LEXIS 510 April 2, 2001, Filed.
- In each case it is noted that each youth had “strong” community support (mentorship). In each case, the element of ‘community support’ is a reason both judges imposed sentences outside of the standard range or deviated from the typical ruling.

# STATE VS. J.A. JOI ADAMS



# PROMISING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

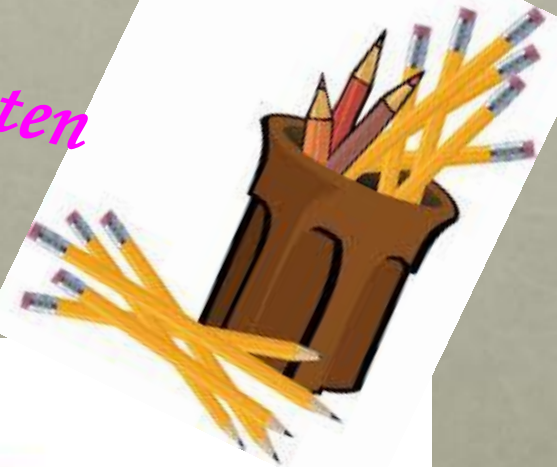
Innovative and Relevant Program Design

CALL for  
ARTISTS

Collaborate

Listen

Innovate



Design



Create



# How?

## Developing Minds~Changing Lives

### Our Theory Of Change

#### READING – “AS A MAN THINKETH”

Your thoughts  
create your world...  
We teach them  
**how** to think. **Not**  
**what** to think.

Youth



Visualization – Create  
your future – it starts with a  
thought

Good To Great –  
Principal – must  
have right people on  
the bus.

Case Strategist

Mentorship & Certified  
Life Coaching

***This is just the tip of the creative genius of Raising Our  
Youth As Leaders***



# ROYAL THEORY OF CHANGE

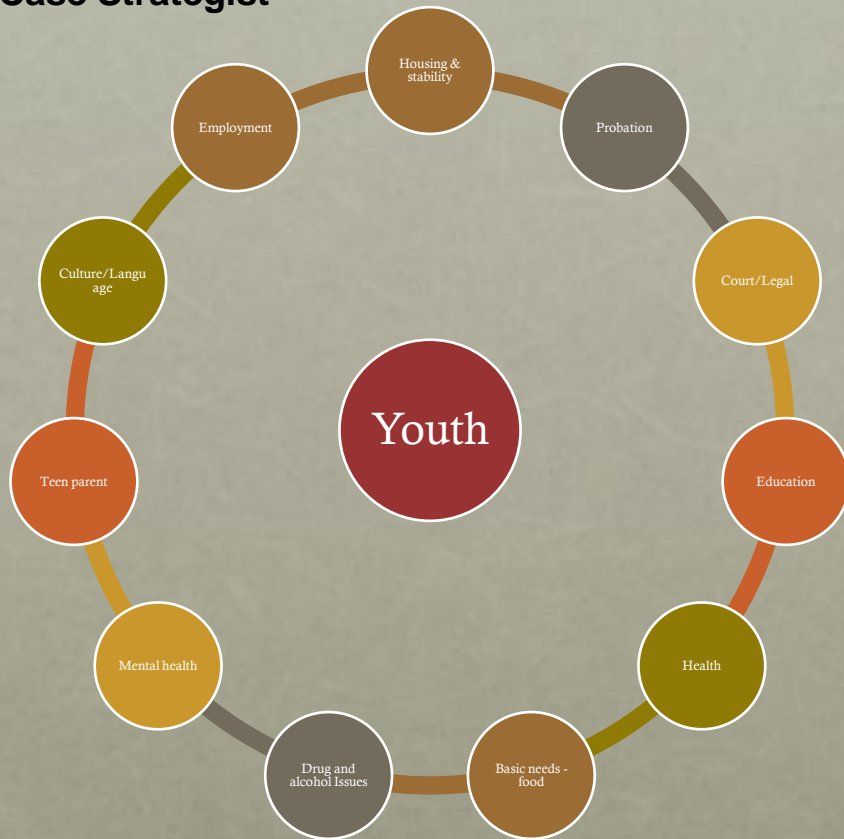


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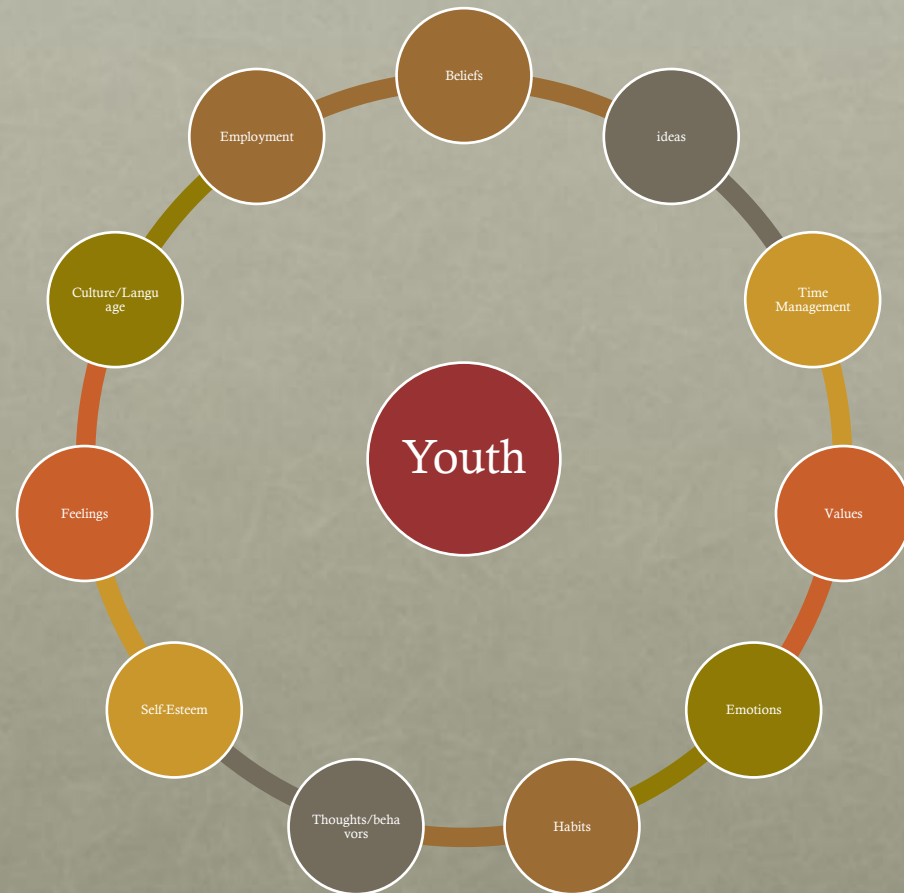
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# WRAP AROUND

## Case Strategist



## Life Coach



# IVIS M.

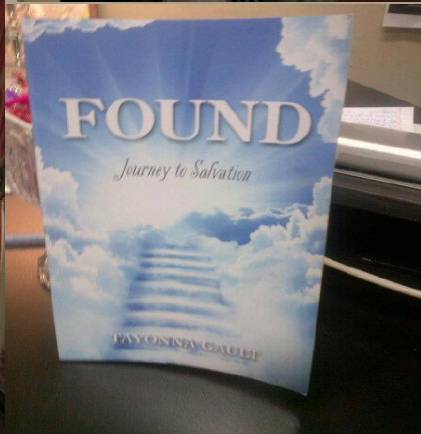
“...Many teens go through what I went through and worse. I lost all hope. Homeless, fatherless, in jail, out of school, and flat broke. I had no purpose and no direction. ROYAL helped me get out of jail. They helped me get through all the requirements and conditions the courts asked for. They helped me graduate high school as a Cleveland Eagle. ROYAL gave me tools to develop as an individual, a young man, and a member of society. They trained me on how to use the tools to make it on my own.

I am 23 years old now. I live on my own, drive an Audi, helped my mom get out of poverty and earn \$60,000 a year. I have a great hobby in sales and I love to communicate. I find myself where I am because this program reached me when no one else did and gave me tools that no one else is even thinking about. I can never say enough good things about what they have done for me.” – Ivis M. 2010





# SUCCESS IN REALITY





# A GOOD IDEA

~Environmental Analysis/Assessment~

What problem are you trying to address?



# MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

## Presidential Memorandum ~ February 27, 2014

Address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

1. Keeping young people on track and giving them a second chance. – Criminal
2. Graduating from high school ready for college and career
3. Successful entering the workforce



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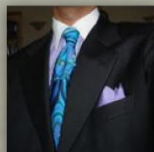
## LEARNING ACADEMY

### OPENING 2015



#### Phase I

- Learning Academy to begin fall of 2015. Highline College and Antioch University
- Purpose to help youth see learning/education in the broader perspective.
- To articulate how/where they see themselves in the global landscape.



#### Outcomes

- Decreased involvement in JJS
- Clear engagement in school
- Articulated/demonstrated improved self-esteem
- Articulate how they see themselves in the global landscape.
- Articulate a knowledge to action plan.



#### Phase 3

- Mind Your Business - Managing your life as a business - Teaching youth to develop and manage their lives through the lens of business principles
- Policy Learning Piece





# CAPACITY

- ROYAL serves approximately 60 unduplicated youth per year. This is not nearly enough youth!
- ROYAL is interested in expanding it's services to serve more youth in King County.
- **For more information on how you can support this program please contact:**
  - **Debra Baker, Project Director**
    - **206-322-8400 ext3196**





The Raising Our Youth As Leaders Project was nominated for  
the 2014 President's Champion for Change Re-entry Award  
ROYAL is endorsed by

**Dr. Michael Eric Dyson**  
**Professor at Georgetown University**  
**National Political Advisor & Hip Hop Culture Expert**

**Dr. Alfonso Valdez**  
**University of California, Irvine**  
**National Gang Expert**

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